

Professor Rhonda Sprague	Class Time: MW 3:30 – 4:45, CAC 333
Office: CAC 208	Office Hours: TR 11-12, W 2-3 (and by appointment)
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****ALL PERSONAL ELECTRONICS (CELL PHONES, SMART PHONES, AUDIO PLAYERS, LAPTOPS, ETC.) MUST BE TURNED OFF BY THE TIME CLASS STARTS. IF YOU ARE CAUGHT USING A PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE IN ANY WAY, YOU WILL BE MADE TO LEAVE. YOU ALSO WILL LOSE ANY EXTRA CREDIT YOU MIGHT HAVE OBTAINED AND FORFEIT THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE ANY ADDITIONAL EXTRA CREDIT. SEND YOUR SCHEDULE TO IMPORTANT PEOPLE SO THEY WILL KNOW NOT TO CONTACT YOU OR EXPECT YOU TO CONTACT THEM DURING CLASSES AND OTHER IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES.****

Course Objectives:

Every student completing this course should have gained the following abilities:

1. Identify and describe the major areas covered by the term “interpersonal communication;”
2. Recognize and distinguish between major theories of IPC;
3. Explain the scope and intent of IPC research;
4. Apply theoretical concepts learned in class to real-life or simulated situations; and
5. Discuss the various consequences of real-life actions upon IPC.

Learning Outcomes for the Communication Major:

By the time they complete all major requirements, students will have gained the following competencies:

1. Communicate effectively using appropriate technologies for diverse audiences;*
2. Plan, evaluate and conduct basic (quantitative and qualitative) communication research;*
3. Use communication theories to understand and solve communication problems;*
4. Apply historical communication perspectives to contemporary issues and practices; and
5. Apply principles of ethical decision making in communication contexts.*

*outcomes supported by this course

Text (Required Rental):

Beebe, S. A., Beebe, S. J., & Redmond, M. V. (2017). *Interpersonal communication: Relating to others* (8th ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson. This text is required and available from text rental.

Grading:

Tests (2@50 points)	100 points
Final Test	60 points
<u>Research Participation</u>	<u>20 points</u>
TOTAL	180 points

You must take all tests to receive a passing grade for the course.

Course Evaluation:

169 – 180 points = A	162 – 168 points = A-	157 – 161 points = B+	149 – 156 points = B
144 – 148 points = B-	139 – 143 points = C+	131 – 138 points = C	126 – 130 points = C-
121 – 125 points = D+	108 – 120 points = D	Less than 108 points = F	

Tests. All tests taken in this course will contain multiple-choice questions covering a combination of objective and applied material. In other words, some items will focus upon straight recall of information, others will require you to generalize across material, and others will require you to apply material to “story problems.” The majority of test items will come from lecture material. The remainder will come from information presented in the text and from student-generated questions.

Research Participation. We will be conducting a class-wide research project this semester. Your grade will be earned through your contributions to this project in 3 ways: 1) Submit potential research questions for the project (5 pts); 2) collect data (10 pts); and 3) summarize the research findings (5 pts). I will provide instructions for each part of the research project during the semester.

Extra Credit. Students can earn up to 4 points of extra credit for the course by writing potential test questions over in-class or textbook material. You will earn one point for each valid question submitted. If I use your question on an exam, you will earn an additional point for that question. I will not use more than 5 student questions on each exam. You will find directions for submitting extra credit questions in the Content area of our D2L site.

Attendance:

Attendance on test days is required. If you are absent on a test day and you do not have an excused absence, you will receive a grade of Zero for the test, and you will fail the course. Attendance during lecture days is not required, but is strongly encouraged. Most of the test material will come from class lectures. It is in your best interest to come to class. *Even though I do not require attendance, you are responsible for all information presented in class, including announcements, schedule changes, assignments, and course material. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain the information you need.* I do not give copies of my notes to students. You must get missed notes from a classmate; however, you may ask me to clarify information from those notes that you do not understand completely.

Excused absences: Absences on test days will be excused only for University-sponsored activities (bring me a list of participating students, provided by most advisors or coaches), illnesses that can be documented, or attendance at a funeral (bring a funeral card or obituary). **In any of these cases, you must inform me before class time that you will be absent and therefore unable to take the test. Unless you have documentable evidence that you were completely incapacitated and unable to hold your phone or sit at a computer for long enough to send an e-mail telling me about your absence ahead of time, you will not be allowed to make up missed work if you do not tell me you will be absent before class starts.** If you do have a valid excuse for being absent on a test day, you will be allowed to take a make-up test. Recognize, however, that your test might not have the same format as the one taken by your classmates (i.e., it might take the form of a short-answer or essay test).

My General Philosophy:

- Paying your tuition does not guarantee you a good grade; it guarantees you a spot in the class and the opportunity to learn something new and/or useful. Please be prepared to take an active role in the learning process. Ask questions, offer examples, or do whatever it takes to make sense of the material.
- I dearly love the material I teach in this course. I will put as much energy as I can into making class interesting enough that you want to be there. Please respect my efforts and those of your classmates by being prepared for and attentive in class each day.
- I expect you to spend between 3 and 6 hours per week working on course material, *outside of class*.

A few student behaviors make me crabby. Please attend to the following hints:

- DO NOT LIE TO ME about anything – attendance, homework, study habits, etc. If I catch you in a lie, you will forfeit any extra credit you have earned, and will be ineligible to receive extra credit for the rest of the semester. Take responsibility for your actions, both good and bad.
- Do not cheat in this class. If I catch you, you will receive an F for the course.
- Have fun in class, but do not take it for granted. Much of what we will cover will seem familiar, but learning it in a formal manner will take some work. You need to treat it like a foreign language. You need to learn the vocabulary and how to use it in context. Do not put off studying because “You’ll know it when you see it.” Chances are you will not.

**Tentative Schedule of Events and Essential Understandings
(I reserve the right to deviate from this schedule!)**

PART ONE: COMMUNICATION HAS CONSEQUENCES.				
DAY	DATE		LECTURE UNIT	READING DUE
1	W	Sept 6	Introduction to Course; Model of IPC	
2	M	Sept 11	Axioms of IPC	Chapter 1
3	W	Sept 13	The Self and IPC	Chapter 2
4	M	Sept 18	The Self and IPC, Part 2	
5	W	Sept 20	Perception and IPC	Chapter 3
6	M	Sept 25	Perception and IPC, Part 2	
7	W	Sept 27	Culture and IPC	Chapter 4
8	M	Oct 2	Research in IPC	
9	W	Oct 4	Test 1	Chs. 1-4 and notes to date
PART TWO: (GOOD) COMMUNICATION CAN TAKE MANY FORMS.				
10	M	Oct 9	Listening and IPC	Chapter 5
11	W	Oct 11	Language and IPC	Chapter 6
12	M	Oct 16	Support, Comforting and Advice	
13	W	Oct 18	Death, Dying and IPC	
14	M	Oct 23	Nonverbal Communication and IPC	Chapter 7
15	W	Oct 25	Power and IPC	
16	M	Oct 30	Persuasion and IPC	
17	W	Nov 1	Conflict and IPC	Chapter 8
18	M	Nov 6	Research in IPC, Part 2	
19	W	Nov 8	Test 2	Chs. 5-8 and notes since Test 1
PART THREE: COMMUNICATION PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE IN RELATIONSHIPS.				
20	M	Nov 13	Enduring Relationships	Chapter 9
21	W	Nov 15	Relationship Development	
22	M	Nov 20	Relationship Maintenance	
23	W	Nov 22	Breaking Up	
24	M	Nov 27	Long-Distance Relationships	Chapter 10
25	W	Nov 29	Jealousy and Cheating	
26	M	Dec 4	Deception and IPC	
27	W	Dec 6	Relational Abuse	
28	M	Dec 11	Family and Workplace Communication	Chapter 12
29	W	Dec 13	Research Wrap-Up	
30	F	Dec 22	12:30 – 2:30 Test 3	Chs. 9-12 and notes since Test 2